

BHO Transition: Talking Points from DBHR

Greetings- You are receiving this email because you may work directly with or be contacted by Medicaid enrollees who received the attached notice that was sent statewide last week. This communication was to inform them of the upcoming change to how behavioral health services are administered starting April 1, 2016.

Key points for you to know:

What is changing?

- On April 1, 2016, the RSNs will become Behavioral Health Organizations (BHOs). Some RSNs will be reconfigured during the BHO transition. Please see the attached BHO Contacts for Services by BHO and County. This will provide you with the information for which BHO an individual would be enrolled with.
- BHOs will oversee and fund treatment for mental health and substance use disorders.

What is NOT changing?

- There have been reports that some people who received this notice believe that there has been a change to their medical coverage. This is not the case. The notice does not describe any changes to medical coverage.
- For individuals currently in mental health treatment there are no changes to the covered mental health providers they see or the services they receive.
- For individuals currently in substance use disorder treatment who will still be receiving services as of April 1, 2016 will be able to complete their course of treatment with the same provider.
- Crisis services will continue to be available as they are currently.

Here is the basic information individuals received in the letter

How will I get services starting April 1?

- You will have a choice of treatment providers within your BHO region. Please refer to your Behavioral Health Benefits Book for more information
<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/BHSIA/dbh/documents/mhbbenglish082013.pdf>.
- If you have questions about this change, contact your BHO.
- If you are an American Indian or Alaska Native, this change will have no impact on receiving behavioral health services through a Tribal program.

How do I start services now?

If you are not currently receiving services, but feel you or someone you know may need services:

- Contact the Washington Recovery Help Line for a free referral to treatment providers in your area: 1-866-789-1511 (TTY 1-206-461-3219) or the BHO listed for the county that you live in.